

mild cases of typhoid can easily exist unrecognized, until the polluted milk has carried its deadly errand into our homes, and has rendered desolate our hearts—not because the dairyman has been a criminal, but because the medical profession has committed a sin of omission! The county medical societies have a duty to perform. Will they still remain inactive in the face of these preventable epidemics?

The tragedy of Cornell, due to a polluted water supply, followed so closely by a similar, though fortunately less deadly epidemic of typhoid fever at Stanford University, should attract immediate and careful study at the hands of students of preventive medicine. For long it has been known that where many men from all sections are gathered together—as in military camps—typhoid fever and other diseases are to be carefully looked for and guarded against, yet that similar precautions should be taken in connection with large gatherings at university centers, does not seem to have been recognized. Where so many lives are placed in danger it would seem as though no amount of care or expense should be too much to ask, that the health and the lives of these young men and women may be properly safeguarded.

The appointment of a Tuberculosis Committee by the State Medical Society at the Santa Barbara meeting was in keeping with the general scientific work of the session. This showed our State Society to be abreast with the times on this important subject. The tuberculosis question has always been of sufficient magnitude to demand the attention of medical societies; but never until recent times has its investigation seemed to promise any hope of relief. Today the world is astir. Public opinion is being educated to the fact that tuberculosis is a preventable and curable disease. Municipalities, states and nations are making the prevention of the spread of tuberculosis a matter of earnest consideration. That our State Medical Society did wisely in taking up this subject is patent from the fact that tuberculosis is very common in our midst. Not only have we a large proportion of native cases, but also a great army of imported cases who come here to receive the advantages of the far-famed climate which certain sections are reputed to possess. How to deal with tuberculosis in California is a subject in which every citizen of our State has a vital interest. It is the intention of this committee to investigate the subject as thoroughly as they can. They wish to obtain the number of cases of the disease in the State; to find out what proportion of these are native and what proportion im-

ported; what measures are being taken, either by private or by public initiative, to check its spread; also to find out whether or not the physicians are in favor of taking measures for checking the disease. We bespeak for the committee the earnest support of every physician of the State, that their report may be complete and valuable. This investigation entails a great deal of work upon the committee and their work can be very much facilitated by a prompt reply to the circular letter which they intend to send to the physicians of the State.

In at least one State the full value to the public and to the medical profession of thorough and careful organization is amply demonstrated. In Kentucky every medical office in the State is filled through the medium of the State and county medical societies. No appointment to a State, county or municipal board of health, vaccinator, insurance examiner, etc., is made without consultation with and reference to the organized medical societies, and no man can receive such an appointment unless he is enrolled in the county society of the county in which he lives. Improper or unjust legislation can no longer even be introduced, for the tremendous strength of organized effort would at once strangle it. It is said, on the highest authority, that there is not a single advertising quack nor illegal practitioner in the State—a result due wholly to the complete organization of the profession and the persistent and insistent demands of the organization. A physician legally licensed to practice medicine in the State of Kentucky can have no recognized professional standing unless he be a member of his county and *ipso facto* his State society. It is quite time that this condition prevailed in every State, and we of California should see to it that no further delay occurs in furthering our complete organization and securing full control of all things medical within our State.

The spirit pervading the American Medical Association at the New Orleans meeting in May, was distinctly and pronouncedly a harmonious and very profound desire for organization and reorganization of the whole profession of the country. No one could have sat through the heat and the toil of the House of Delegates at this 54th annual meeting without being greatly impressed with this one underlying fact. The desire to end old wars and refrain from touching old and nearly healed wounds, was everywhere manifest and was most convincingly shown in the reports from 44 State Societies, showing a tremendous increase in membership. And it is right that this should